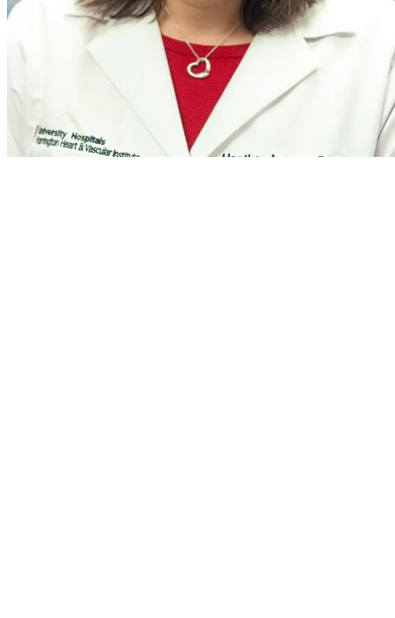


The Department of Medicine of University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Monthly eNewsletter



Top News

**Heather Gornik, MD, Named Department of Medicine Vice Chair of Quality and Strategic Initiatives**

Heather Gornik, MD, is Co-Director of the Vascular Center at University Hospitals Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute. A cardiologist and vascular medicine specialist, **Dr. Gornik** completed medical school at the University of Chicago. She went on to receive additional training in internal medicine, cardiology, and vascular medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston where she also served as chief medical resident. She previously worked at Cleveland Clinic for 13 years, where she was the medical director of the Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratories and Section Head of Vascular Medicine.

Dr. Gornik is an internationally recognized expert in the care of complex vascular diseases, particularly fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD), an uncommon disease of the arteries that can lead to narrowing, aneurysm and dissection. She currently serves as a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the Fibromuscular Dysplasia Society of America (FMDSA), and serves on the steering committee of the United States Registry for FMD. She collaborates with clinicians and investigators worldwide to advance the understanding of this potentially morbid vascular disease. In addition to her work in FMD, **Dr. Gornik** is a nationally regarded expert in noninvasive vascular diagnostic testing and is a past president of the Vascular Testing Division of the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC).

Dr. Gornik has led the development of national guidelines related to the diagnosis and clinical care pathways for patients with vascular disease. She is a past president of the Society for Vascular Medicine and serves as editor-in-chief of its official journal, *Vascular Medicine*.

**Department of Medicine Faculty Member Clark Distelhorst Passes Away**

Clark Distelhorst, MD, a long-standing faculty member of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Department of Pharmacology, the Department of Medicine at University Hospitals and the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, passed away on July 3, 2023.

His wife Lynne shared that **Dr. Distelhorst** was actively working on research and manuscripts over the past month until an acute illness intervened.

"Dr. Distelhorst was recognized as the consummate academic research gentleman, careful with offering his insight, dedicated to his trainees and artful in the detail with which he addressed every pathway he considered," said Dean Stan Gerson.

Dr. Distelhorst's expertise focused on the role of steroid metabolism and the Bcl2 pathway in lymphoid malignancies, apoptosis and autophagy (in its roles to preserve cell survival). He was considered an expert in this field—his key discoveries include the role of the BH4 domain of Bcl2 and its mediation through limiting calcium signaling to block apoptosis and the potential of a therapeutic peptide from this binding site to block Bcl2 interaction with the inositol triphosphate receptor.

[Read More »](#)

**UH Wellness Retreat**

Dr. Betul Hatipoglu, Medical Director for the UH Diabetes & Metabolic Care Center and her team are hosting free, one-day Wellness Retreats for individuals with metabolic conditions including pre-diabetes, diabetes, and obesity. The retreat will be staffed by doctors and educators from University Hospitals, as well as other experts from our community including fitness and wellness coaches.

The retreat program is built around four pillars for optimizing health and wellness:

- Body: Nourishing your body through nutrition and exercise.
- Mind: Empowering your mind through relaxation and sleep.
- Soul: Getting in tune with your emotions, thoughts, and perspectives.
- Life: Looking after your family and financial well-being.

Registration is currently open for the following retreat sessions:

- Friday, August 18th from 8am-5pm
- Saturday, August 19th from 8am-5pm
- Sunday, August 20th from 8am-5pm
- Monday, August 21st from 8am-5pm

Retreat Location: Family Life Center | 6349 Chillicothe Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Additional retreat locations and dates will be scheduled in the future. Participants may register to join the waitlist and will be contacted by the UH Wellness Team once more sessions become available.

For more information

Visit: UHhospitals.org/BeWell

Text: "WELL" to 216-777-4700

Email: WellnessTeam@UHhospitals.org

Watch: [UH Diabetes and Wellness Care Retreat](#)

Awards - Appointments - Publications

**Cleveland Magazine Best Doctors 2023**

92 total DOM providers made the Best Doctors list. Of that, 73 are full-time faculty and 19 are community based physicians

Cardiology

William Wolf
Barry Effron
Chantal ElAmm
Daniel Simon
Heather Gornik
Eliran Gorodeski
Ellen Sabik
Judith Mackall
Mehdi Shishehbor
Michael Zacharias
Atul Hulyalkar
John Coletta
Chad Raymond

Interventional Cardiology

Anene Ukaigwe
Stephan Filby
Michael Cunningham
Jun Li
Paul Poommipanit
Nadim Al-Mubarak

Endocrinology

Pratima Sood
Baha Arafah
Betul Hatipoglu
Valerie Hadam
Revital Gorodeski Baskin
Brian Burch

Geriatrics and Palliative Care

Amanda Lathia
Rab Razzak
Shirley Thomas

Hematology and Oncology

Evi Stavrou
Alvin Schmaier
Koen van Besien
Lalitha Nayak
Molly Gallogly
Lalitha Nayak
Richard Chang
Charles Nock
David Bajor
Debora Bruno
Afshin Dowlati
Jorge Garcia
Prateek Mendiratta
Alberto Montero
J. Eva Selfridge
Melinda Hsu
Puja Arora

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Ashley Faulx
Amitabh Chak
John Dumot
Jeffrey Katz
Dany Raad
Brooke Giessing
Sapna Thomas
Eric Shapiro

Infectious Disease

Robert Bonomo
Usha Stiefel
Keith Armitage
Scott Fulton
Michelle Lisgaris
Robert Salata

Internal Medicine

Roy Buchinsky
Scott Massien
Daniel Fleksher
Nathan Stehouwer
Rajesh Chandra
David Headen
Kristen Kaelber
Suzana Sarac-Leonard
Malka Bannet
Debra Yezman
Scott Yasinow
Alan Hirsh
Crystal Lantz-DeGeorge
Jill Miller
Robert Cirino
Andrew Filtrout

Nephrology

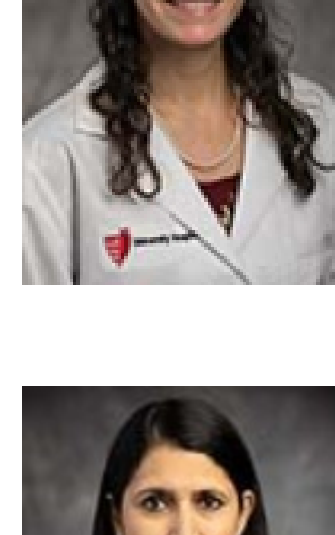
Aparna Dabiyar
Mirela Dobre
Arkasarak Jittirat
Lavinia Negrea
Mahboob Rahman
Arash Rashidi

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

Rana Hejal
Frank Jacono
Benjamin Young
Robert Schilz
Kingman Strohl
Susheel Patil
Eric Yeh
Sally Ibrahim
Nardine Zakhary

Rheumatology

David Blumenthal
Marina Magrey

**Dr. Patil - Senior Author on American Thoracic Society Report**

"Strategies to Assess the Effect of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure on Long-Term Clinically Important Outcomes among Patients with Symptomatic Obstructive Sleep Apnea: An Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report"

This important report discusses the current challenges in conducting long-term RCTs on clinically relevant sleep apnea outcomes, the potential use of quasi-experimental designs to address these challenges, the ethics of conducting RCTs in this area, and approaching these studies with patient-centered focus.

[The report can be found here »](#)

**Dr. Magrey - Q&A on Axial Spondyloarthritis and 2 Publications**

Dr. Marina Magrey discusses her latest research on patients' experiences of axial spondyloarthritis: [Surveying Patients with axSpA About Their Real-life Experiences](#) - [Spondyloarthritis Peer-to-Peer](#)

- Diagnosis of HLA-B27 negative axial spondyloarthritis remains challenging. Results from post-hoc analysis of a large international study from our division:

Chaudhary H, López-Medina C, Khan MA, Dougados M, Magrey M. Clinical profile and treatment utilisation based on HLA-B*27 status in axial spondyloarthritis: results from ASAS-PerSpA study. RMD Open. 2023 Jul;9(3):e003179. doi: 10.1136/rmdopen-2023-003179. PMID: 37491128; PMCID: PMC10373694.

- Another difficult diagnosis and often missed. Axial psoriatic arthritis. A review article about differences in axial psoriatic arthritis versus axial spondyloarthritis.

Yousif P, Nagra V, Khan MA, Magrey M. Disease Characteristics, Pathogenesis, and Treatment Controversies of Axial Psoriatic Arthritis. Joint Bone Spine. 2023 Jul 24;105625. doi: 10.1016/j.jbspin.2023.105625. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37495073.

Research News

**Research team writes case report on contaminated eye drops**

A group of researchers affiliated with Case Western Reserve University, University Hospital and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center recently had a case report titled "Investigating and Treating a Corneal Ulcer due to Extensively Drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*" published in *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*.

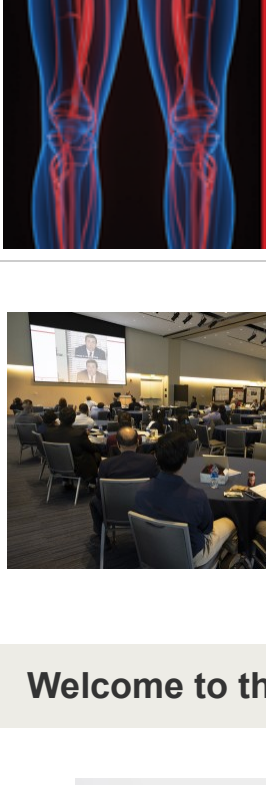
The authors on this report were:

- **Robert A. Bonomo**, professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and infectious disease specialist at Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center;
- Ahmed F. Omar, assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and ophthalmologist at University Hospitals;
- **Morgan K. Morelli**, an infectious disease specialist University Hospitals;
- Amy Kloosterboer, an ophthalmologist at University Hospitals.

In November 2022, the team treated a patient at University Hospitals with a severe eye infection refractory to traditional treatment. A culture of corneal scrapings grew XDR *P. aeruginosa*. The patient's over-the-counter (OTC) eye drops were secured, cultured and grew the same bacteria. The patient's isolate was sent to a CWRU VA CARES research lab for further testing. On Feb. 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a Health Alert Network Health Advisory on an outbreak of infections caused by extensively drug-resistant *P. aeruginosa* associated with OTC artificial tears. Whole genome sequencing (WGS) performed at the CWRU VA CARES research lab confirmed that the patient's isolate had the same resistance genes as described in the nationwide outbreak. CWRU VA CARES was the first laboratory to perform WGS to understand the molecular mechanisms of this bacterium's drug resistance.

[Read their report »](#)

Education News



Save the Date | Continuing Medical Education | CID 2802

16th Annual Cardiovascular Disease Update

Earn 5.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credits

Virtual or In-Person Event
Saturday, October 21, 2023
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In-Person at Tinkham Veale University Center
11028 Bellflower Road
Cleveland, OH 44106

Get the latest updates to support your clinical practice:

- Guideline- and evidence-based strategies to lower cardiovascular risk in patients
- Optimal diagnostic approaches to help guide cardiovascular therapies
- Emerging treatments for complex patients with structural heart disease, arrhythmias and heart failure
- Novel heart and vascular devices and technologies

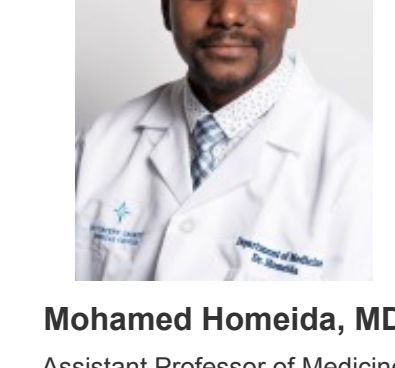
PLUS: Breakout sessions coming soon. Questions? Email medmkt@case.edu



University Hospitals
Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute

Hear from special guest speakers:

Dr. Peter Libby
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Dr. Brian Ferencik
University of Cambridge
Dr. Janani Rangaswami,
George Washington University
Dr. Hugh Cabrine
Johns Hopkins Medical Center
Dr. David Frankel,
University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Roberto M. Lang,
University of Chicago
Dr. Michael Salerno,
Stanford University

**Did you attend Research Day 2023?**

Please help us out by providing feedback on your experience.

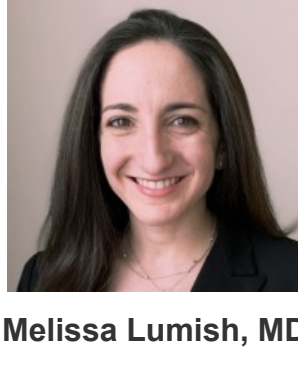
Click the link below to fill out the 4-question survey. Thank you for your input!

[Research Day Survey »](#)

Welcome to the Department



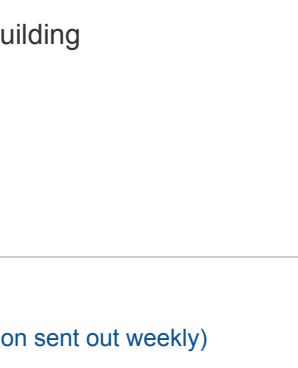
Mohamed Homeida, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Solid Tumor Oncology



Sundeeep Kumar, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Cardiovascular
Medicine



Bradley Lander, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Cardiovascular
Medicine



Melissa Lumish, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Solid Tumor Oncology

Upcoming Events

Investiture Ceremony

Robert Salata, MD - as the chairholder of the **John H. Hord Professorship in Medicine** and
Joseph Sabik, MD - as the chairholder of the **Oliver H. Payne Professorship in Surgery**

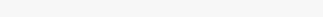
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 | 4:30 p.m.
Iris S. and Bert L. Wolstein Research Building
2103 Cornell Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

[RSVP Here](#)

Recurring Events ([Zoom information sent out weekly](#))

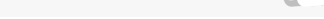
Tuesdays @ Noon - **Medicine Grand Rounds Seminar Series** (September - May)
Wednesdays @ Noon - **V&A Conference**
Fridays @ Noon - **UH M&M Conference**

Recent Medicine Grand Rounds



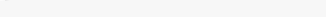
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Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, MD, DTM&H, FIDSA
"How a TED Talk saved 350,000 lives from COVID-19"



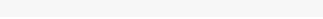
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Kristi Kuhn, MD, PhD
"(Mucosal) Barriers for Understanding Axial Spondyloarthritis"



[View »](#)

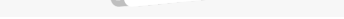
Ronald Magliola, MD
"How Can We Be Both: The Hunger Obesity-Paradox"



[View »](#)

Mahmoud Ghannoum, PhD, MBA, FAAM, FIDSA, ESCMID Fellow
"Candida Auris: A Global Emerging Multidrug Resistant Pathogen"

Social:



[Click here to view online](#)

To contribute or provide feedback, email: Matthew.Zelesnik@UHhospitals.org

UH, CWRU, LSVAMC Department of Medicine @all rights reserved 2023

